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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

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JUN 1975

Honorable Birch Bayh  
United States Senate  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Bayh:

I read with great interest your remarks in the June 2 Congressional Record accompanying the introduction of S. 1841, which would completely bar the use of the polygraph examination in an employment context by this and other Federal agencies. Your remarks then and your conversation with [redacted] indicate a willingness to hear us out on the need for a very limited use of the polygraph in the intelligence field.

I believe the polygraph examination is an essential part of the security program of the Central Intelligence Agency. The predominant use of the polygraph by CIA is as part of the hiring process. After a decision to hire an applicant for a staff position has been made (based on the needs of the Agency and the applicant's qualifications), our Office of Security conducts an investigation to determine if the applicant is of excellent character and of unquestioned loyalty, integrity, discretion, and trustworthiness. Upon completion of the investigation and the accomplishment of medical examinations, a polygraph examination is given as the final investigative aid in the hiring process.

It has been some time since you visited us last. I would hope that I could discuss our polygraph program with you over breakfast here at Langley soon, and I am asking George to contact your office to determine if this might be arranged.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby  
Director

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